

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9761

INFO RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 170

RUALOT/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 334

RUHLHQ/CINCPAC 334

STATE GRNC

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MARCH 7 SEONE OF TWO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: EMBTEL 970, RPTD SAIGON 167, TOKYO 333, CINCPAC 332

ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO VIETNAM

1. ROK RADIO THIS AFTERNOON REPORTED AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FONMIN YI TONG-WON THIS MORNING TO GIVE YI LETTER ENUMERATING U.S. PROVISIONS RELATING ROK SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND ROK. LATER BULLETINS ANNOUNCE THAT ROKG HAS MADE PUBLIC CONTENTS OF LETTER, WHICH IS SAID TO CONSIST OF 14 POINTS. DETAILS OF DISCLOSURE NOT

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CARRIED BY RADIO, WILL DOUBTLESS APPEAR IN MORNING PRESS.

2. JOINT MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NATDEF COMMITTEES OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENED AFTERNOON MARCH 7. PP ASSEMBLY MANSO POM-SOK IMMEDIATELY PROPOSED THAT COMITTEES INTERPELLATE PRIOIN, DEPUTY PRIMIN, FONMI, MND AND PERHAPS OTHER CABINET MEMBERS ON MARCH 8. DRP ACCEPTED PROPOSAL AND MEETING WAS FORTHWITH ADJOURNED.

3. ON MARCH 5, ROKG OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF PRESSING FOR REVISION ROK-U.S. MUTUAL SECURITY PACT, DESPITE MOVES BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR REVISIONS. NEVERTHELESS, PRESS HAS TAKEN UP CALL FOR AMENDMENT TO PACT. TAEHAN ILBO SAID ARTICLE 3, WHICH SUBJECTS US TO COMPLICATED CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES, MADE OBSOLETE BY FACT THAT A STRONG RED CHINA HAS REPLACED USSR IN COLD WAR CONFLICT, SHOULD BE REVISED SO THAT US CAN IMMEDIATELY MEET ANY DANGER BEFALLING ROK.

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REVISION OF ARTICLE 4 (SIC) WOULD PROHIBIT US TROOP PULL-
OUT WITHOUT ROK CONCURRENCE AND WOULD ENCOURAGE KOREAN
PEOPLE. TONG-A ILBO WELCOMED NEWS THAT DRP ASSEMBLYMEN

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LED BY CHA CHI-CHOL WILL PROPOSE AMENDMENT TO PACT TO
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PROMISED CHA "TOTAL SUPPORT". ALTHOUGH
TONG-A HAS "NO REASON TO DOUBT SINCERITY OF US TOWARD ROK",
WANTS TO HAVE COMMITMENT DOCUMENTED BY AMENDMENT TO PACT WITH
GUARANTEES SUCH AS ARE INCLUDED IN NATO TREATIES. US SHOULD
UNDERSTAND ROK ANXIETY, GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO AMEND-
MENT SO THAT ADDITIONAL TROOPS CAN BE DESPATCHED WITH
"CONFIDENCE". OTHERWISE, PAPER EXPRESSES OPINION IT "MAY BE
REASONABLE PRESS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PENDING TROOP DES-
PATCH".

4. MAJOR EDITORIAL COVERAGE OVER WEEKEND, HOWEVER, GIVEN
STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON ON FREE ELECTIONS IN VIET-
NAM AND BY SENATOR FULBRIGHT ON NEUTRALIZATION OF ENTIRE
AREA. CHOSUN ILBO SAID SENATE HEARINGS GAVE KOREANS MIS-
GIVINGS ABOUT COURSE OF US POLICY IN VIETNAM, AT SAME TIME
HARMED MORALE OF TROOPS FIGHTING IN THAT COUNTRY AND
ENCOURAGED COMMUNISTS. ALTHOUGH PAPER PROFESSED TO BE
HEARTENED BY RESULTS OF VOTINGS IN AS CONGRESS ON FUNDS
TO CONTINUE WAR, POINTED OUT THAT DEBATE CONTINUES AND

PAGE 4 RUJWOS 042E C O N F I D E N T I A L
WARNED THAT NEUTRALIZATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA IS NOT
MEANS OF RESTORING PEACE. TAEHAN ILBO GAVE FULL SUPPORT
PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S PROPOSAL, OPPOSITION TO FULBRIGHT'S,
BUT SAID SETTLEMENT OF VIETNAM ISSUE WILL DEPEND UPON
WHETHER JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION HAS ENOUGH POLITICAL "GUTS"
TO SEE IT THROUGH. HANKUK ILBO SAID NEWS FROM WASHINGTON
SOMETIMES INDICATES US POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM FLUID, LACKING
CONSISTENCY. REFERRING TO JOHNSON AND FULBRIGHT PROPOSALS,
HANKUK SAID GENUINE PEACE WILL NOT BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY
IMPROMPTU METHODS, AMERICAN POLITICIANS SHOULD TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT IMPACT OF CARELESS REMARKS ON MORALE OF FREE ASIA
COUNTRIES. FIRM RESOLUTION ALONE WILL FACILITATE SOLIDARITY.
SAID IT NAIVE TO HOLD THAT FREE ASIAN COUNTRIES WILL AUTO-
MATICALLY FOLLOW WHATEVER LINE US MAY PURSUE. CHONNAMMAEIL
SINOUN (KWANGJU) GAVE SUPPORT "IN PRINCIPLE" TO PRESIDENT
JOHNSON'S THOUGHTS ON FREE ELECTIONS, BUT SAID IDEA IS "AT
BEST IDEALISTIC PATTERN OF THOUGHT." DESCRIBED FULBRIGHT'S
PROPOSAL OF NEUTRALIZATION "MORE PRACTICAL," BUT PROMISED
POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE OF CONCILIATION BETWEEN US AND RED CHINA,
AND GUARANTEES BETWEEN US, RED CHINA, AND USSR ON NON-

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INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM. CHONNAM ILBO (KWANGJU) DENOUNCED
PROPOSAL OF NEUTRALIZATION, SAID WAR IN VIETNAM DIRECTLY
CONNECTED WITH SECURITY AND NATIONAL SOVERIGNTY OF ASIAN
NATIONS AND THEREFORE SALVATION OF VIETNAM WILL LEAD TO
SALVATION ALL FREE ASIAN COUNTRIES. KYONGHYAND SINMUN
TERMED FULBRIGHT'S PROPOSAL "GREAT SHOCK TO KOREAN PEOPLE,
WHO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN VIETNAMESE WAR AND CONSIDERING
ADDITIONAL TROOP DESPATCH". KANGWON ILBO SAID CONFLICT OF
OPINION WITHIN US DIRECT INDICATION OF HOW MUCH US IS
TROUBLED BY WAR IN VIETNAM ON ADDED "IT SAFE TO SAY WASHINGTON
HOPES TO LEAVE VIETNAM ONLY IF CHANCE COMES TO DO SO WITH-
OUT LOSING FACE". SAID NEUTRALIZED VIETNAM AS UNIMAGINABLE
AS COMMUNIZED VIETNAM, QUESTIONED WHETHER US POLICY IN
COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH KOREAN POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM AND
WHETHER ROK SHOULD SEND TROOPS ONLY BECAUSE OF SPECIAL
RELATIONS WITH US. BROWN

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